United Nations E/CN.18/2013/8

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
25 January 2013

Original: English

United Nations Forum on Forests
Tenth session
Istanbul, Turkey, 8-19 April 2013
Item 8 of the provisional agenda*
Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, including the provision of further guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

As one of the main functions of the international arrangement on forests, the United Nations Forum on Forests addresses enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination at each session. The present report builds on the structure of past reports and provides a brief overview of the activities undertaken since the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests related to enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination on forest-related issues among relevant forest-related international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments, including the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. The report highlights further possibilities for cooperation in the context of the overall theme of the tenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, "Forests and economic development", as well as in furthering implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the four global objectives on forests.

The present report is intended to facilitate the deliberations of Member States at the upcoming session of the Forum in relation to cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination. It highlights emerging policy issues crucial for strengthening political commitments on forests and new opportunities and suggests some points for consideration by the Forum.

* E/CN.18/2013/1.

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I. Introduction

1. As one of the main functions of the international arrangement on forests (see Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35 and United Nations Forum on Forests resolution 1/1), the United Nations Forum on Forests addresses issues related to promoting enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination among Member States, international and regional organizations and major group stakeholders, and provides guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, at each session of the Forum. At its ninth session, in the resolution entitled "Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication", the Forum invited Member States, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other relevant stakeholders to consider activities and mechanisms to share information and experiences on forest valuation methodologies to better reflect the full value of forest ecosystems and trees outside forests in order to enrich the discussion of the overall theme of the tenth session of the Forum, in 2013.

2. Furthermore, through its resolution at the ninth session of the Forum, the Forum invited the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to continue to provide scientific information relevant to the themes of future sessions of the Forum, through adequate modalities, including the forest expert panels, which should continue to include experts from developing countries. The Forum also requested the secretariat of the Forum to continue to further cooperate with the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Rio Conventions) towards a comprehensive approach to the multiple values of forests and sustainable forest management.

3. At its ninth session, the Forum requested the Secretary-General to continue to address the relationship between forests and trees outside forests and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, at relevant international and regional meetings addressing sustainable development.

4. The present report provides an overview of activities that have been undertaken by the Forum secretariat, since the ninth session of the Forum, to enhance cooperation and policy and programme coordination on forest-related issues. The report also provides a brief overview of such activities among relevant Member States, organizations, processes and stakeholders. It should be noted that a number of such activities are covered in detail in other relevant reports of the Secretary-General to the tenth session of the Forum and in the information note on the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework 2011 and 2012 (E/CN.18/2013/10).

II. System-wide cooperation and policy and programme coordination

A. Economic and Social Council

5. In an effort to improve system-wide coordination and coherence, the General Assembly, in its resolution 61/16 on strengthening of the Economic and Social Council, decided that the Council should hold an annual ministerial-level review as part of the high-level segment, and also decided that the Development Cooperation Forum should be held within that high-level segment. The themes of the annual ministerial review of the Council for 2011 and 2012 were "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education" and "Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals", and the Forum secretariat contributed substantively to the preparation of both, by providing relevant provisions of the decisions of the Forum and information for inclusion in the official documents of the reviews.

6. In addition, the Chair of the Bureau of the tenth session of the Forum and the secretariat participated in the annual joint meetings of the Economic and Social Council Bureau and the Chairs of the functional commissions, held in February 2011 and in May 2012 in New York. Those joint meetings were organized to enhance coordination and cooperation between the Council and its functional commissions, as well as among the functional commissions. During these meetings, the Bureau of the tenth session of the Forum provided contributions on the themes of the annual ministerial review for 2011 and 2012.

B. Department of Economic and Social Affairs

7. The Forum secretariat continued to actively participate in the interdepartmental activities of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and contributed to the interdepartmental work in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the discussions on the development agenda beyond 2015 and the follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. The secretariat facilitated the work of the Bureau for the tenth session of the Forum in transmitting the ministerial declaration, adopted at the ninth session of the Forum (see E/2011/42-E/CN.18/2011/20, chap. I), to the co-chairs of the preparatory committee for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and to the Secretary-General of the Conference, as the input from the Forum. The secretariat also provided substantive support to the informal consultations process and negotiations on forests in the outcome document, and provided relevant technical and policy advice to Member States, upon request. As a result of these inputs from the Forum and its secretariat, the outcome document, entitled "The future we want" (General Assembly resolution 66/288) fully recognized the significance of forests in addressing pressing sustainable development challenges, and underscored the role of the Forum, the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. For further information, see the corresponding report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.18/2013/6).

8. The Forum secretariat has also been active in interdepartmental work on the development agenda beyond 2015. In September 2011, the Secretary-General requested the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to establish a core group of dedicated senior technical experts to coordinate system-wide preparations on ongoing efforts and propose a unified vision and road map for the definition of a United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, in consultation with all stakeholders. Launched in January 2012 and led by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNDP, the United Nations system task team on the post-2015 United Nations development agenda brings together over 60 United Nations system entities, including all the members of the expanded Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs (the expanded membership was part of the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development) and the United Nations Development Group. The task team was formed to assess ongoing efforts within the United Nations system; consult with such external stakeholders as civil society, academia and the private sector; and to develop a system-wide vision and road map to support the deliberations on the development agenda beyond 2015.

9. The task team submitted its first report to the Secretary-General, *Realizing the Future We Want for All*, which covered the three above-mentioned aspects, in June 2012. The Forum secretariat contributed to the report through its engagement in the development of a "think piece" on sustainable development. The report was a basis for the work of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which held its first meeting in September 2012 and is scheduled to present its final report in May 2013. The High-level Panel is mandated to further elaborate on the possible content of the development agenda beyond 2015. The report to the Secretary-General will be an input for the intergovernmental debate on this topic during the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, which will start with a high-level summit to review progress on the Millennium Development Goals. The Forum secretariat has also been active in interdepartmental work on the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 (for more information on these activities, see E/CN.18/2013/6).

10. The Forum secretariat co-led the development of a concept note on conflict and fragility and has contributed to the development of a concept note on environmental sustainability. These papers will inform the thematic consultations on the development agenda beyond 2015.

C. Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

11. The secretariat of the Forum on Forests and the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues have continued to work together through participating in the discussions on indigenous peoples and inequalities in the context of the development agenda beyond 2015. The secretariat of the Forum on Forests also actively participated in an Expert Group Meeting on Indigenous Peoples and Forests, held in January 2011 in New York, coinciding with the full year of celebrations of the International Year of Forests, 2011. The Expert Group Meeting called upon Member States to recognize indigenous peoples' rights to forests and called for the inclusion of indigenous peoples in the United Nations Conference on

Sustainable Development and in the commemoration of the International Year of Forests, 2011.

III. Cooperation with the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, United Nations programmes, multilateral financial mechanisms and other international entities

12. At its ninth session, the United Nations Forum on Forests encouraged Member States to send consistent messages to the governing bodies of the organizations that form the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to continue to support the work of the Forum in order to ensure coherence and synergies related to forests. The Forum also invited the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to continue to provide scientific information relevant to the themes of future sessions of the Forum, through adequate modalities, including the global forest expert panels, which should continue to include experts from developing countries.

13. The Forum secretariat worked closely with a number of international organizations and the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, within and outside of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, on issues of common interest to promote sustainable forest management. Some of the key activities and initiatives are listed below. For more detailed information on cooperation and collaboration among the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership, see E/CN.18/2013/10.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

14. The importance of cooperation and coordination between the Forum secretariat and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was noted by the Forum at its ninth session. Throughout 2011 and 2012, the Forum secretariat has worked collaboratively with FAO on a number of important forest issues that greatly enhanced cooperation and coordination between these two organizations.

15. In cooperation with FAO, the Forum secretariat organized five interregional capacity-building workshops (held in Thailand, October 2011; in Kenya, December 2011; in Ghana, February 2012; in Lebanon, April 2012; and in Chile, April 2012). The overall objective of the interregional workshops was to strengthen and support the capacity of focal points on the Forum on Forests, the Global Forest Resources Assessment Programme and the National Forest Programme in developing countries and countries with economies in transition in reporting to the tenth session of the Forum on progress made in the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, in the context of the overall theme for the session "Forests and economic development". The workshops also aimed to strengthen and support the focal points' capacity to conduct the monitoring, assessment and reporting required for the preparation of voluntary national reports to the Forum and focused on enhancing their understanding of the importance of implementing the forest instrument at the national level. Workshop participants contributed to a proposed monitoring architecture, which was finalized in the form of a reporting template and guidelines for voluntary national reports to the Forum. These capacity-building workshops were in response to the decision by the Forum, at its ninth

session, that a simple voluntary national reporting for the tenth session would focus on the implementation of the forest instrument and a balanced reporting on its four global objectives on forests. In addition, the Forum, at its ninth session, requested the secretariat to develop a streamlined reporting format, in consultation with other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. With funding from the Government of Germany and in collaboration with the National Forest Programme Facility, FAO also implemented pilot projects on strengthening implementation of the forest instrument in Ghana, Liberia, Nicaragua and the Philippines. Further information is included the related report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.18/2013/2).

16. As a member of the Advisory Group on the Global Forest Resources Assessment Programme, the Forum secretariat actively engaged and cooperated in the preparation of the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015, and participated in the meeting of the Advisory Group, held in June 2011, in Rome. The meeting reviewed progress on the dissemination of the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010 and lessons learned to date. It also reviewed the draft long-term Forest Resources Assessment strategy, the remote sensing survey and preparations for the Expert Consultation on the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015. A presentation of the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire was also provided. The Forum secretariat informed the Advisory Group of the outcomes of the ninth session of the Forum and preparations for the development of a streamlined reporting format for the tenth and future sessions. It also informed the Group of existing reporting gaps and indicators to better measure progress in achieving implementation of the forest instrument, the global objectives on forests and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

17. The Forum secretariat participated in the twenty-first session of the Committee on Forestry, held at FAO headquarters in Rome, in September 2012, and shared information with the Committee on the ongoing cooperation and collaboration of the Forum with FAO and other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

International Tropical Timber Organization

18. The Forum secretariat maintained active engagement with the International Tropical Timber Organization and participated in the forty-seventh and forty-eighth sessions of the International Tropical Timber Council and Associated Sessions of the Committees, held in November 2011, in La Antigua, Guatemala, and in November 2012, in Yokohama, Japan. The secretariat informed and engaged the Council on decisions adopted by the Forum pertinent to greater cooperation and coordination with the International Tropical Timber Organization and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

19. In July 2011, the Forum secretariat also participated in the International Conference entitled "Forest Tenure, Governance and Enterprise: Experiences and Opportunities for Asia in a Changing Context", which was organized jointly by the International Tropical Timber Organization, the Government of Indonesia and the Rights and Resources Initiative in collaboration with the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), the Samdhana Institute, the Forest Peoples Programme, the Global Alliance of Community Forestry, Kemitraan and the Epistema Institute. The International Conference brought together a wide range of stakeholders from the Asia-Pacific region and beyond with the aim of promoting an in-depth assessment of

the relationship between forest tenure, sustainable forest management and income-generating enterprises to promote action across a range of Asian countries.

20. **Rio Conventions**. The Forum requested its secretariat to continue to further cooperate with the secretariats of the Rio Conventions in order to promote cooperation towards a comprehensive approach to the multiple values of forests and sustainable forest management. The secretariat collaborated with the secretariats of the Rio Conventions, participating at the sessions of their respective Conference of the Parties held in 2011 and 2012, namely, the tenth session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, held in October 2011 in Changwon, Republic of Korea; the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in October 2012, in Hyderabad, India; and the seventeenth and eighteenth sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in December 2011, in Durban, South Africa, and in December 2012 in Doha. Within the context of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the Forum secretariat also engaged in a number of initiatives with each of the secretariats.

21. The Forum secretariat continued to participate actively in forest-related meetings, conferences and events in an effort to reach and explore new areas and new partners for cooperation and coordination on forests.

22. In March 2011, the Forum secretariat participated in the International Symposium on Ecosystem and Landscape-level Approaches to Sustainability, held in Spain. The symposium focused on highlighting the body of work being delivered globally to advance the understanding and application of ecosystem and landscape-level approaches to sustainable land use and management. It also generated discussion on ways to create a forum comprising representatives with experience in landscape-level management worldwide and to develop a strategy for how to ensure this work is integrated into problem-solving on sustainable use and management of landscapes and natural resources in the light of critical current and future challenges.

23. In May 2011, the Forum secretariat participated in the Joint Institute of Foresters of Australia/New Zealand Institute of Forestry Conference, entitled "Pacific Forestry — Growing a Forestry Future", which was held in New Zealand. The Conference targeted forestry policymakers, managers and practitioners from the South Pacific region and focused on the cultural and community expectations of forests in the region, and examined ways in which greater support for forestry practitioners, improved forest policy and better practices can be provided, including the consideration of such issues as off-shore environmental impacts (e.g., climate change), reducing costs and providing better access to markets, and making the role of national forests and trees as regards improved water quality, soil conservation and carbon sequestration more explicit.

24. In July 2011, the Forum secretariat participated in the Asian Wetland Symposium, held in Malaysia. The theme of the symposium was, "Integrated biodiversity conservation: Linking forests and wetlands", and it was part of a series of international symposiums on wetland issues. The symposium was hosted by the Sabah State Government, the Ministry of Natural Resources of Malaysia, the Japan International Cooperation Agency through its programme for Bornean Biodiversity and Ecosystems Conservation, Phase 2, and the Centre for the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar

Centre), Japan. The Asian Wetland Symposium embodies a regional effort to enhance the delivery of the goals of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Programme on Man and the Biosphere of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Fund, and the forest instrument.

25. In October 2011, the Forum secretariat participated in the annual meeting of the Tropical Forest Foundation, held in Washington, D.C. The Foundation works to improve tropical forest management by promoting dialogue and alliances among industry, government and academia, as well as with research and conservation organizations. The secretariat highlighted both the successes and challenges faced in promoting greater recognition of people-centred forest management.

26. The Forum secretariat has continued to actively work with members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. Details of the Forum's cooperation with those organizations and entities is contained in the note on the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework 2011 and 2012 (E/CN.18/2013/10).

International Year of Forests, 2011

27. At its ninth session, the Forum encouraged all relevant organs of the United Nations, including the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and the regional commissions, as well as United Nations system agencies, funds and programmes, to fully support, contribute to and participate in the activities envisaged for the observance of 2011 as the International Year of Forests. The Forum secretariat worked in close coordination with Member States, regional entities, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and major groups in the observance of the International Year of Forests. An overview of the secretariat's cooperation with those organizations and entities is contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the International Year of Forests (E/CN.18/2013/9).

International Day of Forests

28. At its ninth session, in the context of the International Year of Forests, the Forum recommended that the Economic and Social Council and, through it, the General Assembly, consider the establishment of an International Day of the Forest, with the aim of recognizing the significant contribution of forests to sustainable development, the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals and the corresponding need to strengthen the sustainable management of all types of forests for the benefit of future generations. In December 2012, the General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming 21 March as the International Day of Forests (resolution 67/200), in order to celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests and of trees outside forests. The resolution requests the Forum secretariat, in collaboration with FAO, to facilitate the implementation of the International Day, in collaboration with Governments, the Collaborative Partnerships on Forests and international, regional and subregional organizations and processes as well as relevant major groups. The Forum secretariat and FAO provided technical support to Member States in the negotiations leading to the adoption of the resolution.

IV. Stakeholder involvement

29. During its ninth session, the Forum invited Member States to support major group initiatives to maintain their engagement in the Forum and their commitment to the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests. Stakeholder participation in the Forum remains a crucial component of the Forum's multi-year programme of works. In preparation for the tenth session, the Forum secretariat organized regular consultations with the focal points of the major groups throughout 2011 and 2012.

30. In line with the decision taken by major groups to develop coordinated and focused contributions and policy recommendations for the ninth session of the Forum, major groups submitted one joint discussion paper reflecting their views on the theme of the tenth session of the Forum. The engagement of the major groups with the Forum is outlined in that discussion note (E/CN.18/2013/7/Add.1).

V. Initiatives in support of the Forum led by countries, organizations, regions and major groups

31. Initiatives led by countries, organizations and major groups in the form of international expert meetings in support of the work of the Forum have made important and extremely significant contributions. Such initiatives are innovative and unique mechanisms that have contributed to the knowledge on important issues related to sustainable forest management and the international arrangement on forests. To make the initiatives even more dynamic and relevant to the work of the Forum, it adopted a set of draft guidelines for such initiatives in support of the Forum at its ninth session.

32. At its ninth session, the Forum took note of the guidelines for such initiatives in support of the Forum. The guidelines prepared by the Forum secretariat built on previous guidelines contained in resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (see E/CN.18/2011/10, annex). The Forum requested all entities to consider the guidelines when planning such initiatives.

33. In March 2011, in support of the Forum, the Governments of Indonesia and Japan, in collaboration with the International Tropical Timber Organization, Forest Europe, the Montreal Process and the secretariat of the Forum, organized a seminar, entitled "Challenges of sustainable forest management: integrating environmental, social and economic values of forests", which was a country-led initiative held in Tokyo. The objective of the event was to present an overview of international trends related to sustainable forest management since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including discussions on emerging issues such as reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD-plus) and biodiversity conservation. It also aimed to review the development and implementation of a range of policy tools and instruments for the practice of sustainable forest management and to share experiences and lessons learned. Representatives of Governments, criteria and indicator processes, international

organizations, the private sector and civil society attended and participated in the event.

34. In October 2011, a conference entitled "Contributions of Forests to a Green Economy" was held in Bonn, Germany. The conference participants exchanged ideas and experiences concerning the roles of forests and sustainable forest management for developing a green economy. The conference, which was held in support of the work of the Forum, was one of the activities organized by Germany to celebrate the International Year of Forests, 2011. It was organized with support from Finland and Austria and in close collaboration with the Forum secretariat and FAO. Conference objectives included exchanging ideas and experiences on the roles of forests and sustainable forest management for developing a green economy and promoting alliances, partnerships and networking within and among the Forum and the Commission on Sustainable Development focused on developing recommendations on how to realize the potential of forests to help build a green economy, aimed at informing the discussions at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the tenth session of the Forum.

35. In January 2012, the Government of Viet Nam, with the support of Finland and the Netherlands, hosted an expert meeting, as a country-led initiative in support of the Forum, entitled "A pathway to a green economy in the context of sustainable development: a focus on the role of markets in the promotion of sustainable forest management". The expert meeting aimed to foster dialogue and cooperation on how to enhance synergies and resolve conflict between the major challenges facing forest policymakers and land-use managers; to strengthen sustainable forest management and sustainable land use while enhancing the contribution of forests and land-use management to improving the livelihoods of rural communities and small- and medium-scale forest enterprises; and to address the international trade of products from sustainably managed forests as a possible instrument to contribute to an enabling environment for legal and sustainable production of timber and sustainable forest management.

36. In September 2012, the Government of Ukraine hosted an expert meeting entitled "Lviv Forum on Forests in a Green Economy: Actions and Challenges for the Countries of Eastern Europe and Northern and Central Asia". The Lviv Forum brought together different stakeholders, policymakers and international experts to share experiences and explore opportunities for implementing the concepts and requirements of a green economy in the forest sector. The overall aim of the Lviv Forum was to make the concept meaningful, operational and beneficial for forest management and forest communities in the countries of Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia. Participants discussed regional initiatives for the implementation of green economy concepts and requirements in the forest sector, with special reference to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and the role of forests in carbon economies, biodiversity conservation, and the sustainable use of forests, among other issues. The Lviv Forum also developed recommendations on actions to strengthen forest policies, institutions and practices that support the green economy. The meeting was organized and supported by the Governments of Ukraine and Switzerland, FAO, the Forum secretariat and Forest Europe.

37. In September 2012, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests organized and held organization-led initiative on forest financing in support of the United Nations

Forum on Forests. The event was hosted by FAO and co-organized by the Forum secretariat with the support of other members of the Collaborative Partnership and financial support from several Governments. It was held in response to the invitation addressed to the Collaborative Partnership in the resolution entitled "Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication", adopted by the Forum at its ninth session (see E/2011/42-E/CN.18/2011/20), and the resolution entitled "Means of implementation for sustainable forest management", adopted at the special session of the ninth session, held in October 2009 (see E/2009/118-E/CN.18/SS/2009/2). Its main objective was to deepen the understanding and knowledge of all stakeholders on the state of forest financing, the opportunities and challenges, and to allow experts to provide suggestions to improve the situation through the sharing of information and best practices. It offered participants the space and opportunity to exchange views on the findings of the 2012 study by the Advisory Group on Finance to provide further analyses on forest financing and was an occasion to further clarify and broaden the scope of information for a knowledge-based discussion during the second meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing. The event provided an ideal non-political platform for government experts, relevant international and regional organizations including member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership, major groups and other relevant stakeholders to thoroughly and analytically discuss several issues on forest financing. The summary by the co-chairs of the discussions, including the key points and recommendations, was submitted to the Second Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Forest Financing. The summary is also part of the official documentation for the tenth session of the Forum and is contained in document E/CN.18/AEG/2013/2.

VI. Cooperation with regional and subregional partnerships and processes

38. Cooperation and collaboration with regional and subregional forest-related organizations, processes and partnerships has remained a key aspect of the Forum. This aspect was further strengthened by resolution 2006/49 of the Economic and Social Council, which specifically added strengthening interaction between the Forum and relevant regional and subregional forest-related organizations, processes and institutions as an additional main function of the international arrangement on forests. The forest instrument also encouraged greater engagement of regional and subregional bodies. Accordingly, the Forum set a new focus in its multi-year programme of work (2007-2015) on regional collaboration and partnerships. Since its eighth session, in 2009, the Forum has solicited inputs from relevant regional and subregional forest-related mechanisms, institutions, organizations and processes and deliberated on ways for further enhancement of such cooperation and collaboration.

39. At its ninth session, the Forum invited regional and subregional organizations to strengthen their contributions to the work of the Forum and to provide input, in the context of the overall theme for the tenth session, on their efforts towards the implementation of the forest instrument and its four global objectives on forests, through sharing regional perspectives, approaches and experiences. Regional activities on North-South and South-South cooperation, including triangular cooperation on sustainable forest management, were also encouraged.

40. The Forum secretariat prepared a questionnaire to facilitate regional and subregional inputs to the Forum at its tenth session. For the tenth session, the secretariat received fourteen regional and subregional inputs from the African Forest Forum, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Asia Pacific Forestry Commission, the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation, the East African Community, the European Forest Institute, Forest Europe, Montreal Process, Near East Forestry and Range Commission, Organization of American States, Réseau des Parlementaires pour la Gestion Durable des Ecosystèmes Forestiers d'Afrique Centrale, Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the Economic Commission for Europe/FAO Forestry and Timber Section. The reports from regional and subregional organizations are clear indications of the growing relationship between the Forum and regional and subregional organizations, and are invaluable to the reports of the Secretary-General on regional and subregional inputs. Information on the Forum's cooperation with regional and subregional partnerships and processes is contained in the report of the Secretary-General on regional and subregional inputs (E/CN.18/2013/3).

41. In 2011, in close cooperation with regional bodies, the Forum secretariat launched an electronic newsletter called "Regional Voices". The newsletter aims to provide a platform for regions to share their experiences and lessons learned, and exchange information with one another, and with the Forum. Thus the newsletter also aims to help organizations to develop bilateral, North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation networks on sustainable forest management. The newsletter is in an early stage of its operations and needs support from stakeholders in order to be more informative and outreaching.

VII. Issues for further consideration

42. Enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral policy programme coordination on forest-related issues among relevant forest-related international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments, and within the United Nations system, plays an important role in the achievement of sustainable forest management, the implementation of the forest instrument and the attainment of the four global objectives on forests. During the current intersessional period, the Forum secretariat, the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, other intergovernmental organizations, institutions and processes, as well as a wide range of stakeholders, have increasingly found opportunities to enhance cooperation and intersectoral programme and policy coordination on forest-related issues. These efforts have culminated in the many activities outlined in the present note and increased understanding of the importance of sustainable forest management, the implementation of the forest instrument, the four global objectives on forests and the role of forests in contributing to sustainable development and the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015.

43. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests has demonstrated its abilities and potential over time for enhanced cooperation and coordination on forest issues and in providing support for the implementation of the work of the Forum. With proper recognition of its work and the provision of appropriate new guidance to the Partnership by the Forum, the Partnership should be able to act more collaboratively and provide focused and substantive support to the Forum, in particular in view of

the important task ahead at its eleventh session, in 2015. In order to encourage the Partnership to support the intersessional preparatory work for the eleventh session, the Forum may wish to invite the governing bodies of the member organizations of the Partnership to specifically advise their organizations accordingly.

44. The Forum secretariat is keen on further improving and strengthening modalities of global and regional interaction and information-sharing. Within its limited resources, the secretariat is doing its utmost. Several workshops and meetings organized by the secretariat in the context of forest finance and the solicitation of inputs from regional and subregional bodies to the sessions of the Forum have further increased the interaction in recent years. It is working closely with regional and subregional organizations and developing new approaches, such as the electronic newsletter, to enhance networking and cooperation.

45. Maintaining and enhancing cooperation and policy and programme coordination across the international, regional, subregional and national levels on forest-related issues and promoting coherence and synergies in a cross-sectoral fashion require constant and sustained effort and resources from all stakeholders, in particular from Member States. In a rapidly changing economic, social, environmental and technological world, addressing challenges to and maximizing the potential of sustainable forest management requires strong support from all in enhancing cooperation, coordination and collaboration. The Forum has played a key role in enhancing cooperation and should continue to:

(a) Incorporate and strengthen activities related to the observance of the International Day of Forests;

(b) Support activities by major groups in support of the Forum and their engagement with the Forum to participate effectively in initiatives and activities in support of the Forum;

(c) Support the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in carrying out targeted activities in support of the eleventh session of the Forum and its joint initiatives.